

2154
TION #3

N/A



)

:

,

)

)

:

)

• •

)

February 24, 2003

FEB 26 2003

Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents listed are also enclosed.

Europe 1049291
Europe 0896454
Europe 0878935
Europe 0455402

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report dated February 6, 2003 is enclosed.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Moreover, in light of the date of the European Search Report, it is hereby submitted that the foregoing references were first cited in a foreign counterpart application not more than three months before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
CA_MAIN 59031 v1